AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following section headings on page 1, after the title and at line 2:

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1) Field of the Invention --

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, beginning at line 3, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The invention relates to ~~an~~a litter apparatus ~~litter~~ for cleaning surfaces fouled with chewing gum, comprising a mobile support structure for: at least one supply container for cleaning agent, a plurality of spray units coupled to the supply container for spraying a surface for cleaning with cleaning agent, wherein each spray unit is adapted to spray the same part-surface at least once during displacement of the support structure, and at least one pump for feeding cleaning agent under pressure to at least one spray unit, wherein at least a front spray unit, as seen in the direction of displacement of the support structure, lies at least substantially in front of another, rear spray unit. The invention also relates to a vehicle for cleaning surfaces fouled with chewing gum, wherein the vehicle is provided with at least one supply container for cleaning agent, a plurality of spray units for spraying a surface for cleaning with the cleaning agent, wherein each spray unit is adapted to spray the same part-surface at least once during displacement of the support structure, and at least one pump for feeding cleaning agent taken up from the supply container under pressure to at least one spray unit, wherein at least a front spray unit, as seen in the direction of displacement of the support structure, lies at least substantially in front of another, rear spray unit. The invention further relates to a method for cleaning surfaces fouled with chewing gum. --

Please insert the following section heading on page 1, at line 20:

-- 2) Description of the Prior Art --

Please insert the following section heading on page 2, at line 16:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, beginning at line 17, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The invention provides for this purpose an apparatus ~~of the type stated in the preamble~~for cleaning surfaces, characterized in that the apparatus comprises pressure-generating means for bringing ~~the~~ a cleaning agent under pressure such that the pressure of the cleaning agent sprayed on ~~the~~ a surface for cleaning fouled with chewing gum lies substantially between 300 and 750 bar, and that the apparatus comprises heating means for heating the cleaning agent such that the temperature of the cleaning agent sprayed on the surface for cleaning fouled with chewing gum amounts to a minimum of 115 degrees Celsius. Owing to the particular combination of spraying a single part-surface a number of times under a somewhat increased pressure of between 300 and 750 bar with a heated cleaning agent at a temperature of at least 115 degrees Celsius, relatively persistent chewing gum residues and the like can be removed in effective manner from a surface without herein causing damage to the cleaned surface. Tests have shown that merely applying a somewhat increased pressure without increasing the temperature of the cleaning agent, or only increasing the temperature of the cleaning agent without increasing the pressure cannot result in effective cleaning of a surface fouled with chewing gum. It has been found from tests that an effective cleaning can take place only in the case the cleaning agent is heated to a temperature of a minimum of 115 degrees Celsius and spraying with a pressure of a minimum of 300 bar against the surface for cleaning. Conversely, optimal cleaning results can be obtained at a temperature of the cleaning agent amounting preferably to at least 125 degrees Celsius, more preferably about 150 degrees Celsius and at a pressure preferably lying between 350 and 400 bar. The above values for pressure and temperature relate particularly to the values of these quantities at the position of the outflow openings for cleaning agent forming part of the spray units. The cleaning agent is generally formed in substantial part by water. Because the pressure of the cleaning agent leaving the apparatus is increased sufficiently, the formation of steam in the apparatus can be prevented. By applying a plurality of spray units positioned one behind the other, in addition to increasing the pressure and temperature of the cleaning agent, a surface for cleaning is first cleaned a first time by the front spray unit, wherein the fouling is at least partially released by softening, and is subsequently cleaned for a second time by the rear spray unit in order to completely spray off the dirt released (to some extent) by softening, in particular chewing gum, from the surface for cleaning. The increased temperature of the relatively hot cleaning agent will

generally result in further softening of the contaminants for removing, in particular chewing gum residues, so as to further increase the efficiency of the apparatus according to the invention. Owing to the dual, successive cleaning, a relatively effective and complete cleaning of surfaces fouled with chewing gum can be achieved in a relatively short time. Each spray unit herein sprays the same part-surface at least once, though preferably a number of times, this subject to, among other things, the speed of displacement of the apparatus, in order to enable maximizing of the total cleaning of the surface. The pressure, temperature and quantity of cleaning agent sprayed onto the surface via the spray units can – depending on the nature and amount of fouling to be removed – vary per spray unit. The cleaning agent will generally be formed by a liquid, in particular water. (Environmentally-friendly) additives can optionally be added to the liquid to improve the surface cleaning. Each spray unit is preferably provided with one or more nozzles which can be of very diverse nature and design. The front spray unit and the rear spray unit will usually lie substantially in line with each other and, as assembly, also lie in line with the direction of displacement of the support structure, so as to enable maximizing of the part-surface cleaned by the two spray units. It is noted that in determined conditions it is also possible to envisage positioning more than two spray units (for instance three) successively as seen in the direction of transport of the support structure. Although the apparatus according to the invention is intended primarily for the removal of chewing gum residues from a surface, it will be apparent that the apparatus will also be able to remove from an underlying surface other types of fouling strongly adhered to the surface, such as for instance road markings and ~~tyre~~tire tracks. --

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, beginning at line 29, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The invention also relates to a vehicle ~~of the type stated in the preamble~~for cleaning surfaces, characterized in that the vehicle comprises pressure-generating means for bringing ~~the~~a cleaning agent under pressure such that the pressure of the cleaning agent sprayed on the surface for cleaning fouled with chewing gum lies substantially between 300 and 750 bar, and that the vehicle comprises heating means for heating the cleaning agent such that the temperature of the cleaning agent sprayed on the surface for cleaning fouled with chewing gum amounts to a minimum of 115 degrees Celsius. The vehicle according to the invention comprises the

apparatus according to the invention. Advantages of the vehicle according to the invention and possible preferred embodiments have already been described at length in the foregoing. --

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, beginning at line 6, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The invention further relates to a method for cleaning surfaces ~~using such an apparatus~~, comprising the steps of: a) causing displacement of ~~the~~a support structure, b) heating a cleaning agent to a temperature of at least 115 degrees Celsius, c) spraying a part-surface at least once, but preferably a number of times, with the heated cleaning agent under pressure using at least one front spray unit, and d) spraying the same part-surface at least once, but preferably a number of times, with the heated cleaning agent under pressure using at least one rear spray unit, wherein the pressure of the heated cleaning agent during spraying on the surface as according to step c) and step d) lies substantially between 300 and 750 bar. The cleaning agent is preferably sprayed by the front spray unit and/or the rear spray unit onto the part-surface at a pressure of at least 300 bar. The cleaning agent sprayed by the front spray unit and/or the rear spray unit in the direction of the surface for cleaning preferably also has a temperature of at least 120 degrees Celsius, and more preferably at least 150 degrees Celsius. The cleaning effect of the apparatus according to the invention can be considerably enhanced by spraying heated cleaning agent as hot liquid or even as steam onto the contaminated surface. The cleaning capacity of the apparatus can be optimized by spraying the relatively hot cleaning agent at an increased pressure of preferably at least 300, and more preferably at least 500~~,~~ bar against the surface for cleaning. This pressure preferably remains below 750 bar so as to prevent possible (undesirable) damage to the surface for cleaning. Further advantages of the method according to the invention have already been described at length in the foregoing. --

Please insert the following section heading on page 7, at line 27:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --

Please insert the following section heading on page 8, at line 9:

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --